

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/823,651	OLSSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Dana Ross	Art Unit 3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Application filed 4/14/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. The drawings filed on 14 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art neither anticipates, nor renders obvious, a machine spindle (independent claim 1) or force amplifier drawbar (independent claim 14) as claimed, specifically wherein the combination of limitations include a wedge assembly including the limitation of "a plurality of sets of wedges spaced circumferentially apart, each set including a radially inner wedge and a radially outer wedge arranged in sliding contact" or "wherein the inner and outer wedges include respective parallel planar surfaces arranged in surface contact for cooperative sliding engagement with one another and oriented at an oblique angle with respect to the axis" as is claimed in independent claims 1 and 14.

The closest prior art is US Pat. No. 4,668,137 (Iwakura, hereafter '137) and US Pat. No. 5,052,866 (Bauch et al.), hereafter '866).

'137 teaches a clamping device in a machine spindle with a front drawbar 4 and rear drawbar 7, spring 11 (see fig. 2); the front and rear drawbars arranged coaxially, the front drawbar including a clamp within a casing (see fig. 2); the rear drawbar being axially movable relative to the front drawbar (see col. 2, lines 3-35, for example); and a wedge assembly (see fig. 5) for transmitting rearward movement of the rear drawbar to the front drawbar for rearwardly moving the front drawbar (figures 3, 4 and 5 and col. 2, lines 3-35, for example).

'137 teaches a first wedge with a plurality of sets circumferentially apart (see fig. 5, reference numbers 6, 6a, 6b) in sliding contact with holder 5 and drawbar 7 (see fig. 2). Both the holder 5 and drawbar 7 are considered "wedges" in sliding contact with wedge 6, 6a, 6b.

Art Unit: 3722

‘137 does not disclose “ a plurality of sets of wedges spaced circumferentially apart, each set including a radially inner wedge and a radially outer wedge arranged in sliding contact with one another.”

Though ‘137 teaches a wedge 6 with a “plurality of sets” (see fig. 5), these sets are not in sliding contact with each other. This wedge is in sliding contact with the holder 5 and drawbar 7 (see fig. 4), however the holder 5 and drawbar 7 are solid structures which do not provide a “plurality of sets” in sliding contact with wedge 6.

Therefore ‘137 does not anticipate the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 14.

Additionally, there is no prior art, either alone or in combination with ‘137 that would render obvious the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 14, and no motivation found to modify ‘137 to obtain the claimed inventions.

‘866 teaches a clamping device in a machine spindle with a drawbar 3 made up of a front and rear drawbar portion threaded together (see figure 1) movable relative to each other through the threaded connection; a wedge assembly 9 with a plurality of radially inner and outer wedges (see figures 3-7).

‘866 teaches various arrangements of the wedges, but does not disclose the inner and outer wedges include respective parallel planar surfaces arranged in surface contact for cooperative sliding engagement with one another and oriented at an oblique angle with respect to the axis.

Therefore ‘866 does not anticipate the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 14.

Additionally, there is no prior art, either alone or in combination with '866 that would render obvious the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 14, and no motivation found to modify '137 to obtain the claimed inventions.

Furthermore, there is no motivation found to modify '866 to obtain the claimed invention. To modify '866 such that the wedges were of the claimed design would require hindsight and would destroy the workability of the wedge device of '866 with the use of the balls 14 which provide the surface contact with the wedges.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

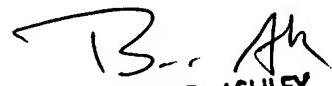
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dana Ross whose telephone number is 571-272-4480. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 571-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3722

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


dmr


BOYER D. ASHLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER